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Seventieth year

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Identical letters dated 18 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 June 2015, which I received from Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and a joint response of the European Union to the report entitled "Neo-Nazism: a dangerous threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of Member States and observer missions.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

At the end of April 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation issued a report entitled "Neo-Nazism: a dangerous threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law", which has been circulated as a document of the United Nations at the request of its Permanent Representative.

The European Union has already repeatedly stated its position on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including neo-Nazism, most recently in its comprehensive explanation of the vote (see A/69/486 and A/C.3/69/SR.50) delivered before the adoption on 21 November 2014 of resolution 69/160 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in which the European Union stressed that that fight should not be misused for political purposes.

In addition, I have the honour to convey to you the attached joint response of the European Union, specifically addressing the above-mentioned report from the Russian Federation (see enclosure).

I kindly request that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 68, 82 and 129, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Ambassador

Enclosure

European Union joint response to the report entitled "Neo-Nazism: a dangerous threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

We are aware that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation issued a report entitled "Neo-Nazism: a dangerous threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law" at the end of April 2015 and that the Russian Federation has requested that the report be circulated as a document of the United Nations.

The report contains factual inaccuracies and selective information on the situation in the European Union and its member States. The report is also geographically incomplete. A chapter on the situation in the Russian Federation, for example, is missing.

The European Union regrets that the Russian Federation tries to establish parallels between current and past political developments in the context of the ongoing crises.

The European Union is committed to the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism. The European Union and its member States continue to take firm steps to address this at home, including in the context of the framework decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. Their condemnation and combat must be a common and consensual priority for the entire international community. The European Union calls on all States Members of the United Nations to remain united in efforts to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism, to tackle hate crimes and hate-speech decisively and to cooperate in this regard.